**Transformation of the archival system in the Karakalpak ASSR during the 1960s**

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**Abstract.** The article is dedicated to the development of archival work in Karakalpakstan in the 1960s. In the early 1960s, a new phase in the history of archival development in Uzbekistan began when the Archival Administration was removed from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and placed under the direct supervision of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan. This work is an important contribution to the study of the history of archival development in Karakalpakstan.

**INTRODUCTION**

Archival documents constitute an essential component of the historical heritage and collective memory of society. They provide a fundamental source base for studying the processes of state formation, the development of science and culture, as well as the evolution of legal and moral values. Archives, functioning as independent social institutions, significantly influence the formation of public historical consciousness and political-legal culture.

The 1960s marked a turning point in the development of archival administration in the USSR. This period witnessed the completion of the controversial stage during which archival institutions operated within the structure of the NKVD–MVD (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs - Ministry of Internal Affairs), and the transition of archival services to civilian governance. These reforms created new institutional and legal conditions for improving archival management and expanding access to documentary heritage.

This article examines the transformation of the archival system in the Karakalpak ASSR during the 1960s, focusing on organizational reforms, preservation practices, scientific use of archival documents, and the role of expert evaluation mechanisms.

**EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH**

The study is based on a comprehensive analysis of regulatory legal acts, reporting documents of archival institutions, materials of the Central State Archives of the Karakalpak ASSR, as well as protocols of expert verification commissions (EVC). A historical-institutional approach was applied to assess structural changes in archival governance, while elements of comparative and systemic analysis were used to evaluate the effectiveness of archival reforms.

Special attention was paid to directives of the Main Archival Administration (1960), resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR and the Karakalpak ASSR (1961–1963), as well as quantitative indicators of archival processing, preservation, and utilization of documentary materials [1-4].

**RESEARCH RESULTS**

The archival reforms of the early 1960s led to significant institutional changes in the archival system of the Karakalpak ASSR. The withdrawal of archival bodies from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and their subordination to republican and local executive authorities strengthened the legal status of archives and improved administrative coordination.

At the beginning of the 1960s, a new stage in the development of archival work began. In this regard, the 1960 August 10 directive of the Main Archival Administration on changing the procedure for filling state archives with documentary materials and establishing control over institutional archives was of fundamental importance for the further work of archival institutions. If previously, state archives were obligated to accept materials from all institutions without exception, then after the issuance of the institution's directive, they were divided into two categories, the documentary materials of which are subject to acceptance and are not subject to acceptance for state storage. From this time, the acceptance of materials from small institutions of auxiliary, supporting, and service nature was stopped. In addition, a restructuring of the examination work was carried out. From now on, expert-verification commissions (EPCs) have reviewed not the selection lists for waste paper as before, but the inventories for documentary materials of permanent storage. Documentary materials whose storage period has expired were destroyed by institutions independently after the approval of the IPC inventories of the archival body [2].

Initially, the issue of changing the jurisdiction and legal status of the Republic's Archives Department was considered. Thus, according to the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR dated May 9, 1961, the Archive Directorate was removed from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and transferred to the direct subordination of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan. This same resolution provided for the transformation of the archival departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Karakalpak ASSR and the Department of Internal Affairs of the regional executive committees into archival departments under the Council of Ministers of the Karakalpak ASSR and regional executive committees, which after a year were merged, respectively, with the Central State Archive of the Karakalpak ASSR and regional archives and began to be called state archives under the Council of Ministers of the Karakalpak ASSR and regional executive committees. Thus, the period of archival service in the NKVD - Ministry of Internal Affairs system ended. City and district state archives with variable document composition were granted the right to permanently store documents [3].

In accordance with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR No. 403 of June 2, 1962, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, having heard the report on the work of the Central State Archive, on August 15, 1962, adopted the resolution of the CM of the Kazakh SSR No. 340 "On Improving Archival Affairs in the Republic," according to which appropriate changes were made to the archival system in the archival affairs of the Karakalpak ASSR. Based on this decree, the Inter-District State Archive in the city of Chimbay was reorganized, concentrating all archival documents of the Takhtakupyr and Kegeyli district state archives. On the recommendation of the Central State Archive, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh ASSR, during the reorganization of districts in Karakalpakstan, by its order of March 11, 1963, No. 149-r, retained the district state archives under the Beruniy and Kungrad city executive committees, ensuring access to archival documents for the local population. Measures were taken to improve the material and technical base of the republic's archives.

As a result of these reforms, substantial progress was achieved in the preservation and systematization of archival holdings. Large-scale measures were implemented to clean, repair, disinfect, and verify archival materials. Quantitative indicators demonstrate a steady increase in the volume of processed and preserved documents, reflecting improved archival standards. For example, in 1962, 2500 storage units were dusted off, in 1963 - 25600 storage units, in 1965 - 35579 files, 93 storage units were repaired, 9 to 30 325,326 storage units were checked by fund, 930 storage units were mapped, and the archive was disinfected 1-2 times a year, which is an important measure to prevent the destruction of documents. This indicated that the archive adhered to high standards in the field of protection and maintenance of archival materials.

The scientific and public use of archival documents also expanded considerably. Archival materials were actively employed in the preparation of documentary collections, academic publications, radio broadcasts, and public lectures. The work of expert verification commissions was reorganized, shifting their primary focus to the evaluation and approval of inventories of documents with permanent storage value, thereby enhancing the scientific validity of archival appraisal. The collections "Socialist Restructuring of Agriculture in Uzbekistan," "Cultural Construction in the Karakalpak ASSR" were published, 300 copies were reviewed, 25 documents (37 sheets) of archival material were identified, for the collection "The Reactionary Role of Muslim Clergy in Uzbekistan (1917-1940)," 2 documents were identified and selected, 1342 copies were reviewed, for the collection "Organizational and Economic Strengthening of Collective Farms in Uzbekistan (1933-1937)," 6 documents were identified and 8 storage items were selected, which contained important documents [4].

However, the study also identifies several challenges, including limited expertise in working with documents written in Arabic and Latin scripts, insufficient transfer of materials from departmental archives, and infrastructural constraints related to storage facilities.

The findings indicate that the archival reforms of the 1960s contributed to the professionalization and modernization of archival practice in the Karakalpak ASSR. The strengthening of expert evaluation mechanisms and methodological support improved both the preservation and accessibility of archival materials. At the same time, unresolved issues highlight structural limitations typical for archival institutions in the peripheral regions of the USSR.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The archival transformations of the 1960s represented a crucial stage in the development of the archival system of the Karakalpak ASSR. Organizational restructuring, improved preservation practices, and the expansion of scientific and public access to archival documents ensured the effective functioning of archives under new administrative conditions. Despite existing challenges, the reforms laid a solid foundation for the further development of archival studies and the integration of archival heritage into academic research and public discourse.

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